



TOM CILMI
Suffolk County Legislator
10th District

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Contact: Maria Barbara
(631) 854-0940 (office)
(516) 457-2573 (cell)
maria.barbara@suffolkcountyny.gov

Suffolk Veterans may soon have an “HOV Lane” for Medicaid Services

Suffolk Legislator Tom Cilmi has filed a bill directing the County’s Department of Social Services to create an “HOV” (helping our veterans) Lane with a dedicated examiner to provide direct assistance and expedite veterans’ Medicaid applications.

Cilmi said, “Suffolk is home to an extremely large population of veterans, many of whom need Medicaid at some point in their lives, and for some that assistance could mean life or death. They were there for us. I want to make sure we’re there for them.”

He noted that the suicide rate for veterans is “alarmingly high.”

Legislator Cilmi said the U.S. Army alone is scheduled to release some 40,000 military men and women from service over the next two years. He said many will undoubtedly come home to Suffolk County. He also said that veterans would benefit from a caseworker who is familiar with the unique challenges facing men and women returning from active duty.

“We need to be prepared,” he said.

The bill, which also directs the Commissioner of Social Services to issue a report to the Legislature in one year evaluating the program, could be voted on by the Legislature at its September 9 meeting.